The Thirties

The last ten years have been, a difficult time for 'Who'—confused, precarious, dangerous years. Yet 'Who' survives. Judges still sit, robed in red, and decree punishment; policemen in blue (a greater number than before speaking like B.B.C. announcers, and the large-footed, pantomime variety, friendly with cooks, seeming scarcely to exist any more) still perambulate the streets; elderly men are still to be seen through windows in Pall Mall asleep in leather chairs with *The Times* in their lap, powdery ladies wearing furs to be seen in large cars as they pass by, or airing small dogs in Hyde Park; the *Tatler* and *Bystander* continue to be available in dentists' and doctors' waiting-rooms, and to display the activities of the rich and fashionable mostly for the edification of the poor and unfashionable; Eton and Harrow to be well-attended, society weddings frequent, gossip-writers voluminous, expensive restaurants crowded, winter sports and the ballet popular, peerages and baronetcies, knighthoods even, much desired, tickets for theatre, and especially cinema, first-nights much sought after, debutantes many (though the American quota greatly reduced), Glyndebourne and Ascot places to be seen at, and clergymen fit, along with doctors and Justices of the Peace and bank-managers, to sign passport forms. The King in his palace and bishops in theirs, company directors at their board meetings and civil servants at their desks, governors of distant lands, Viceroy of India, lords temporal, spiritual and financial—all these and the many holding on to their skirts, survive. 'Who' survives.

Sunday by Sunday Mr. Garvin fills his allotted space, not appreciably less noisy and incoherent than heretofore; *Punch* appears week by week, still with winged politicians, and jokes about hunting, and the New Rich, and servants who mispronounce, and Austin Sevens, and each January i a Mr. C B, Gabb surveys the year's longevity records in *The Times.* The *Morning Post* has been absorbed in the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Daily Worker* increased its circulation, Oxford and Cambridge senior common rooms gaining what retired army and navy officers have lost; the *Manchester Guardian* continues to preach